

No Such Thing as a Stupid Question

Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? Matthew 18:1-5

Message Outline

Self-promoting: It's all about Me

1. Power Humility

I will bow before those with greater status (Mk 10:42-45)

2. Bogus Humility

Worn as an adornment to achieve something

Christ-Promoting: Letting the gospel shape how we treat others.

“And anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf is welcoming me.”
(Matthew 18:5 NLT)

1. Heart Humility

Showing a genuine interest in others even when they can do nothing for you

Quote: “...we would never come away from meeting them thinking they were humble. They would not be always telling us they were a nobody (because a person who keeps saying they are a nobody is actually a self-obsessed person). The thing we would remember from meeting a truly gospel-humble person is how much they seemed to be totally interested in us. Because the essence of gospel-humility is not thinking more of myself or thinking less of myself, it is thinking of myself less.”

C. S. Lewis

Next Steps to becoming great:

1. Have a conversation and not talk about yourself unless it is helpful to build others up.
 2. Spend time with someone outside your social status.
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Matthew 18:1-5

New Living Translation (NLT)

The Greatest in the Kingdom

18 About that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?”

2 Jesus called a little child to him and put the child among them. 3 Then he said, “I tell you the truth, unless you turn from your sins and become like little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven. 4 So anyone who becomes as humble as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.

5 “And anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf is welcoming me.

Study Questions

1. Why do you think Jesus focuses so much on what people do with their faith not just on faith itself?
2. Often our society speaks about children in a romanticized way: they are innocent, pure, adoring, etc. In the ancient world they were people with no status, no power and were a drain on one's time and resources. They were loved and wanted, but they were ‘nobodies’ in status and power. How does this knowledge change our reading of Matt 18:1-5?
3. How deeply ingrained are the “self-promoting” ways of Power Humility and Bogus Humility?
4. Can you think of a time when you put yourself down to make someone else feel better or showed respect to someone you did not really respect just because of their status? How did you feel afterward? How can we become more authentic in our journey toward humility?
5. How does Romans 12:10 help us with “heart-humility”? (cf., Phil 2:3-4, 21).
6. How does true heart-humility demonstrate the gospel of grace in real life? How does it help us with self-awareness?
7. How can 1Thess 5:11 help us become accountable for doing the action steps in this week's outline/message?